

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 and 10 are amended.

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the following Listing of Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a plurality of yeast cells, wherein said plurality of yeast cells are characterized by their ability to ameliorate or ~~prevent~~ reduce the incidence of gastritis in a mammal, said ability resulting from their having been cultured in the presence of an alternating electric field having a frequency in the range of about 7900-13000 MHz and a field strength in the range of 200 to 420 mV/cm, as compared to yeast cells not having been so cultured.
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said frequency is in the range of about 8000 to 8100, or 12200-12900 MHz.
3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said field strength is in the range of about 225-245, 240-260, 250-270, 270-290, 275-295, 290-310, 295-315, 300-320, 320-340, 340-360, or 370-390 mV/cm.
4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said yeast cells are of the species selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*, *Saccharomyces rouxii*, *Saccharomyces sake*, *Saccharomyces uvarum*, *Saccharomyces sp.*, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, and *Rhodotorula aurantiaca*.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said yeast cells are derived from the strain deposited at the China General Microbiological Culture Collection Center with an accession number selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Hansen AS2.501 and AS2.69, *Saccharomyces sp.* AS2.311, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* Lindner AS2.994, *Saccharomyces sake* Yabe ACCC2045, *Saccharomyces uvarum* Beijer IFFI1044, *Saccharomyces rouxii* Boutroux AS2.180, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Hansen Var. ellipsoideus AS2.612, *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis* Hansen AS2.377, and *Rhodotorula rubra* (Demme) Lodder AS2.282.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a tablet, powder, or a health drink.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a health drink.

8. (Original) A method of treating or preventing gastritis in a subject, comprising administering the composition of claim 1 to the subject.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 comprising oral administration.

10. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a yeast composition, comprising culturing a plurality of yeast cells in the presence of an alternating electric field having a frequency in the range of about 7900-13000 MHz and a field strength in the range of about 200 to 420 mV/cm for a period of time sufficient to substantially increase the capability of said plurality of yeast cells to ameliorate or ~~prevent~~ reduce the incidence of gastritis in a mammal as compared to yeast cells not having been so cultured.